IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Andrew M. Pelletier et al.	§		
	§	Group Art Unit:	Unassigned
Prior Application Serial No.: 09/434,244	§		
Prior Application Filed: November 5, 1999	§		
Serial No.: Unassigned	§	Examiner:	Unassigned
Filed: Herewith	§		
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING FETAL STATUS DATA	§	Atty Docket:	GEMS:0055--1/YOD 31-PN-6223

	"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL
NUMBER:	**EL 652 336 307 US**
DATE OF DEPOSIT:	**August 16, 2001**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, I hereby certify that I am personally depositing this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the date indicated above in a sealed envelope (a) having the above-numbered Express Mail label and sufficient postage affixed, and (b) addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

August 16, 2001	Lynda Howell
Date	*Lynda Howell*

Assistant Commissioner
For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examining the present patent application and to calculating the fees for the present filing, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

16. (Amended) A method for monitoring a fetal condition, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a fetal parameter of interest and generating a fetal condition signal representative thereof;

(b) storing the fetal condition signal;

(c) defining a general purpose network presentation including data representative of the fetal condition signal; and

(d) transmitting the presentation to a general purpose display station via a configurable network link upon receipt of a command from the display station.

Please add the following new claims.

28. (New) A system for monitoring a fetal condition, the system comprising:

means for detecting a fetal parameter of interest and for generating a fetal condition signal representative thereof;

means for storing the fetal condition signal;

means for defining a general purpose network presentation including data representative of the fetal condition signal; and

means for transmitting the presentation to a general purpose display station via a configurable network link upon receipt of a command from the display station.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the means for detecting the fetal parameter detects the parameter in real time.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the means for defining the general purpose network presentation performs real time updating of the network presentation to include data representative of most recently available monitored fetal condition signals.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the means for transmitting the presentation provides real time retransmission of the real time updated network presentation.

32. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the network presentation is based upon a web page defined in a markup language.

PDOCS:1504650.1

33. (New) The system of claim 28, including a display station comprising a general purpose computer and a browser operating to display the network presentation.

34. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the network presentation includes historical data accessible by a user at the display station in response to a user command.

35. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the network presentation includes a graphical representation of the data.

REMARKS

In the Office Action issued in the parent application, separate and distinct inventions were identified. By the present Preliminary Amendment, claims not elected in the Response to that Office Action have been maintained in the present application. Although the Examiner identified claims 16-22 and 23-27 as generally having different utility, claim 16 has been amended by this paper to reflect that the primary utility of the method recited therein is for monitoring a fetal condition, like that of claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 16 and 23, and the claims depending therefrom, be examined together in the present application.

By the present paper, new claims 28-35 are added. Claims 28-35 are linking claims reciting subject matter in means-plus-function format similar to that recited in claim 16 and its dependent claims. Accordingly, claims 28-35 should be maintained in the present application and examined along with other pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the drawings and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Date: August 16, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545

PDOCS:1500425.1

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice.

The claims have been amended as follows:

16. (Amended) A method for monitoring a fetal condition ~~of a patient~~, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a fetal parameter of interest and generating a fetal condition signal representative thereof;

(b) storing the fetal condition signal;

(c) defining a general purpose network presentation including data representative of the fetal condition signal; and

(d) transmitting the presentation to a general purpose display station via a configurable network link upon receipt of a command from the display station.

Docket No. 0008.0004